

THE WAR FOR THE UNION.

LAWYERS TRIFLING WITH THE GOVERNMENT.

THE BEEF CATTLE CONTRACTS.

THE DRILL OF THE POTOMAC ARMY.

PREPARATIONS FOR AN ADVANCE.

WASHINGTON, Monday, October 21, 1861.

A MIDDLE-SOME LAWYER IN A TRAP.

A writ of habeas corpus was served yesterday by a city lawyer, on behalf of a prisoner, upon Provost-Marshal Porter. The President has instructed the Marshal of the District not to serve such writs, the District being practically under martial law, the lawyer was promptly arrested, and District-Judge Merrick, before whom the writ was returnable, had been placed under the surveillance of the authorities, and his pay stopped. There is a band of lawyers in the city, organized for the purpose of throwing impediments in the way of holding prisoners under arrest.

THE SUPPLY OF BEEF CATTLE.

The proposals for supplying beef cattle were opened by Major Beckwith to-day. Ninety-eight bids were sent in, ranging from \$3.43 to \$5.13. The contract will be awarded to Benjamin S. Kunkel and John L. Metzler of Pennsylvania at \$3.49. The lowest bidder offered to supply 4,000 head only, whereas Government requires that 10,000 be furnished at contract price if necessary, the cattle to be delivered at Chambersburg, York, or Harrisburg, Pa. A majority of the bids were from Pennsylvania and Illinois.

THE CHAPLAIN QUESTION.

The Adjutant-General, in ordering all Chaplains not "regularly ordained Ministers of a Christian denomination" to be mustered out of the service, and none others to be mustered in, followed the phraseology of acts of Congress, one relating to the volunteer, and the other to the regular service, passed at the last session.

THE M'CORMICK REAPER.

The Commissioner of Patents has decided against M'Cormick's application for the extension of his reaper patent of 1847, on the following grounds:

First: That the invention is one of great utility and importance to the public.
Second: That the same already received by M'Cormick, and the same he is entitled to recover from infringers, together, amount to an adequate remuneration, and, therefore, the patent should not be extended.

APPOINTMENTS.

Charles Hopkins, of New-York, has been appointed to a first class \$1,200 per annum clerkship in the Pension Bureau. C. H. Morse has been promoted to a second class clerkship in the Quartermaster-General's bureau.

PERSONAL.

The Rev. Wm. H. Channing has accepted the call of the Unitarian Church of Washington, and will be installed at the beginning of next month.

OUR INTERESTS IN PORTUGAL.

Minister Harvey writes that the Portuguese Government has given the United States great privileges in the importation of grain.

DRILL OF THE POTOMAC ARMY FOR AN ADVANCE.

A General Order has been issued requiring the soldiers of the Army of the Potomac to be exercised in heavy marching order so hour every day.

THE NAVIGATION OF THE POTOMAC.

Thirty-five vessels passed down the Potomac at daybreak this morning. Thirty odd shots were fired at those in advance, none taking effect, when the firing ceased. A large number will attempt to run up to sight.

WHAT INDIANA HAS DONE.

Indiana has not only been the first State to supply her quota of troops, but her troops are stationed at more points than those of any other. She has eleven regiments in Kentucky, six in Western Virginia, seven in Missouri, three in Maryland, two at Washington City, and one at Hatteras Inlet. Several regiments more have been ordered to Kentucky, and several more are at home fully organized, but not yet applied with arms. She has fifty-seven regiments organized and nearly organized, and will, it is believed, soon have at least sixty regiments in the field.

To the Associated Press.

WASHINGTON, Monday, Oct. 21, 1861.

THE POSTAGE-STAMP CONTRACT.

The price paid the former contractor for furnishing postage stamps was 16 cents per thousand. The price paid the present contractor is 14 cents, saving nearly 25 per cent.

During the fiscal year ending June 30, 1860, while there was no discontinuance of postal service on any part of the country, the number of postage stamps issued was 216,000,000, which, at 18 cents per thousand, cost \$38,880,000. The price actually paid under the former contract amounted to \$38,880,000. The price actually paid under the present contract is \$28,240,000, or nearly 25 per cent difference.

Thus far there have been issued under the new contract 55,000,000 stamps; as many more will be required to furnish the Post-Office in the country and to meet the demand for the exchange of the old stamps.

The estimated issue of new stamps, at the expiration of one year from the commencement is 300,000,000.

Value of the old stamps on the Department \$17,000,000.

Ordinarily, when there is no exchange of stamps, about 500,000,000 stamps per year are required for the use of the whole country, which, at the present price, cost the Department \$8,000,000 per year less than under the old contract, which in the six years of the new contract would result in a saving of \$48,000,000.

THE NAVIGATION OF THE POTOMAC.

The Reliance went down to join the flotilla last night, and the Robert Leslie started thither to-day noon. Some 40 vessels went down yesterday, and safely passed the Rebel batteries. A large number of shots were fired at them, but none struck.

THE FLOATING BATTERY.

From information received here, it is believed that the armed steamship or floating battery, now building for the Erie Canal, will be completed long before the other two are finished, the work upon it being of less magnitude. A large surplus from the

BATTLE NEAR LEESBURG.

ENGAGEMENT WITH A SUPERIOR FORCE.

OUR TROOPS REPULSED.

DEATH OF COL. BAKER.

DESTRUCTION OF A PRINTING-OFFICE AND PRIVATE DWELLINGS.

INTERESTING FROM KENTUCKY.

ATTACK ON A FEDERAL STEAMER ON THE TENNESSEE RIVER.

RECONNOISSANCE ON THE TENNESSEE RIVER.

FROM FORTRESS MONROE.

THE MISSISSIPPI FLOTILLA.

THE REBEL MINISTERS TO EUROPE.

ARMY PROMOTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS.

A SOLDIER WITH AN USPATRIOTIC WIFE.

TRIAL FOR CIRCULATING HELPER'S BOOK.

RETURNING HOME.

THE SYNOD OF NEW-YORK AND NEW-JERSEY ON THE WAR.

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